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Docket No.: NEB-154

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Evans EXAMINER: W. Moore

APPLICATION NO.: 09/249,543 GROUP: 1652

FILED: February 19, 1999

FOR: Intein-Mediated Protein Ligation Of Expressed Proteins

The Honorable Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

**RESPONSE B**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 23, 2002, please amend the above-identified Application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 1-3 and add new claims 31-61 as follows:

*July 2*

1. A method for ligating a first expressed protein with a second protein, the method comprising the steps of:

- generating a first target protein having a C-terminal thioester, wherein the target protein is expressed in a host cell;
- generating a second target protein having a specified N-terminal; and
- combining the first target protein with the second target protein in a mixture;

*C 1*

*(d) ligating the first and the second target protein in the mixture.*

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02 FC:202 168.00 CH